

creating [an imaginary platform of] reference points located precisely with respect to the patient's spine, forming concave surfaces in adjacent spinal bone, and inserting between the formed bone surfaces a vertebral disc endoprosthesis including confronting concaval-convex supports, each support having an exterior convex surface adapted to mate with the adjacent formed concave spinal bone surface, the endoprosthesis further including a resilient body element interposed between the concaval-convex supports, and thereafter affixing the concaval-convex supports to the adjacent bone.

C1
Cont.

C2

28. (Once Amended) A method of surgery according to Claim 26 further including the steps of attaching a screw to each concaval-convex support and screwing said screw into [an] the implanted anchor.

C3

9 35. (Once Amended) A method of endoprosthetic discectomy surgery comprising the steps of receiving information about the size, shape and nature of a patient's involved and proximate normal natural spinal vertebral bodies and natural spinal vertebral discs from known imaging devices, thereafter constructing at least one vertebral disc endoprosthesis comprising a resilient disc body and concaval-convex elements at least partly surrounding the resilient disc body, removing at least the involved, natural spinal discs from the patient's spine, forming concave surfaces in adjacent spinal bone, and thereafter implanting the vertebral disc endoprosthesis in the patient's spine.

REMARKS:

This Application is a divisional Application Ser. No. 08/681,230, issued on 07 October 1997 at U.S. Patent No. 5,674,296. Claims 1 - 22, 31, 33, 34 and 36 - 53 of the current Specification were allowed in that case.